

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BELIZE 00799 241841Z

50

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-01

INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-15 TRSE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06 SP-02

CIEP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 AGR-10 L-03 /079 W

----- 009682

R 212325Z NOV 75

FM AMCONSUL BELIZE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4512

UNCLAS BELIZE 0799

EO 11652:N/A

TAGS: EINV

SUBJ: INVESTMENT CLIMATE IN BELIZE

REF: STATE 261921

1. INVESTMENT CLIMATE: OVERALL, GOB IS CAUTIOUSLY RECEPTIVE TOWARDS DIRECT FOREIGN INVESTMENT (DFI) WITH THE POTENTIAL TO CONTRIBUTE TO DEVELOPMENT OF BELIZEAN RESOURCES. GOB OFFERS TAX HOLIDAY INCENTIVES OF UP TO TEN YEARS AND USEFUL STUDIES OF INVESTMENT POTENTIAL IN SUCH AREAS AS AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK, TOURISM, AND "OFFSHORE" INDUSTRIES. LAND COSTS ARE QUITE LOW BUT SOMEWHAT OFFSET BY RELATIVELY HIGH CLEARING AND DEVELOPMENT COSTS. CORN, BEANS, RICE AND POTENTIALLY BEEF HAVE A READY MARKET IN CARICOM. EXPORT CONTROLS ARE ONLY RARELY IMPOSED TO GUARANTEE AVAILABILITY OF LOCAL FOODSTUFFS TO BELIZE'S 130,000 PEOPLE AT CONTROLLED PRICES CURRENTLY UP TO 40 PERCENT BELOW WORLD MARKET PRICES.

2. GOB HAS ENACTED SEVERAL INCENTIVES TO LAND DEVELOPMENT INCLUDING PROGRESSIVE TAXES ON IDLE RURAL LAND AND A REQUIREMENT THAT AN ALIEN LAND PURCHASER PRESENT AND CARRYOUT A REASONABLE DEVELOPMENT PLAN. GOB VIEWS THE ORDINANCES AS DISINCENTIVES TO SPECULATION THAT SHOULD NOT HAMPER THE SERIOUS INVESTOR/DEVELOPER. THE FEW INCIDENTS OF GOVERNMENT ACQUISITION IN RECENT YEARS SEEM TO BE RELATED TO GOB'S DESIRE TO SATISFY THE LAND AND ACCESS NEEDS

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BELIZE 00799 241841Z

OF SMALL LOCAL FARMERS AND VILLAGERS IN LINE WITH THE GOVERNMENT

PARTY'S PERCEIVED "SACRED DUTY" TO INTERVENE IN THE ECONOMIC
LIVE "FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL BELIZEANS." COMPENSATION HAS BEEN
FORTHCOMING AND HAS ON OCCASION BEEN REVIEWED AND ADJUSTED UP-
WARD BY AN INDEPENDENT JUDICIARY. GOB RECENTLY ENACTED LEGIS-
LATION TO MAKE POSSIBLE COMPENSATION PAYMENT IN TEN YEAR INTEREST
BEARING GOB "BONDS". OPIC POLITICAL RISK INSURANCE IS
AVAILABLE AND A DOUBLE TAXATION TREATY WITH THE USA IS IN FORCE.
GAWF

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INVESTMENT CLIMATE, FOREIGN INVESTMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 NOV 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BELIZE00799
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750409-0124
From: BELIZE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751122/aaaaasyi.tel
Line Count: 69
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 261921
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 JUN 2003 by chicheje>; APPROVED <25 FEB 2004 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INVESTMENT CLIMATE IN BELIZE
TAGS: EINV, BH
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006